

C1

a rearfoot portion of the torsion system spanning substantially the entire rearfoot area of the sole from the midtarsal area to a heel area and from the lateral side to the medial side; and

an intermediate portion of the torsion system coupling the forefoot portion and the rearfoot portion, and constructed of a material and configured to allow, in a pre-selected manner, rotation of the forefoot portion relative to the rearfoot portion about the longitudinal axis.

---

21. (Three times amended) An article of footwear including a sole with a forefoot area and a rearfoot area and a torsion system, the torsion system comprising:

a sole plate rigid in a horizontal plane and including a longitudinal axis, the sole plate comprising:

C2

a forefoot portion of the sole plate spanning substantially the entire forefoot area of the sole from a midtarsal area to a toe area and from a lateral side to a medial side, the forefoot portion having a generally smooth concave contour along the longitudinal axis;

a rearfoot portion of the sole plate spanning substantially the entire rearfoot area of the sole from the midtarsal area to a heel area and from the lateral side to the medial side; and

an intermediate portion of the sole plate coupling the forefoot portion and the rearfoot portion and constructed of a material and configured to allow, in a pre-selected manner, rotation of the forefoot portion relative to the rearfoot portion about the longitudinal axis.

---